

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3815

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, ET, SO, US
SUBJECT: UNGA GENERAL DEBATE - OGADEN CONFLICT

1. IN THE COURSE OF THREE WEEKS OF UNGA GENERAL DEBATE, NUMEROUS COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY AFRICANS, EXPRESSED VIEWS ON THE OGADEN CONFLICT. THESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATE MOST AFRICAN DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THAT SUPER POWER INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONFLICT SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND THAT, FOR THE PRESENT, THE MATTER SHOULD REMAIN WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, DESPITE THE FACT (WHICH HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS ON THE FLOOR) THAT THE OAU MEDIATION EFFORT TO DATE HAS BEEN FRUITLESS. THE DESIRE TO KEEP THE SUPER POWERS OUT APPEARS TO BE BASED ON FEARS THAT GREAT POWER INVOLVEMENT COULD BROADEN THE CONFLICT AND CREATE ANOTHER ANGOLA TYP SITUATION.

2. THERE ALSO EXISTS A STRONG UNDERCURRENT OF SENTIMENT FOR ETHIOPIA AS EXPRESSED ON THE FLOOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ESPECIALLY BY THE AFRICANS. THIS SENTIMENT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND EXISTING BORDERS AND
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RESPECT FOR UN AND OAU CHARTERS. THERE HAS BEEN NO OPEN AND ALMOST NO TACIT SUPPORT BY ANYONE FOR SOMALIA DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE. SOMALIA'S BACKERS HAVE LAID LOW, AND OMAN'S SPEECH STANDS ALONE IN TILTING TOWARDS THE GSDR. WE DETECT A GENERAL ATTITUDE THAT SOMALIA, IN INTRODUCING REGULAR MILITARY UNITS INTO THE OGADEN, STEPPED PAST PALE OF RESPECTABILITY.

3. STATEMENTS BY NON-AFRICAN MEMBERS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO ITALY'S CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE, CUBAN AND HUNGARIAN STATEMENTS THAT CONFLICT IS RESULT OF IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACY, AND AN AMBIGUOUS UKRAINE STATEMENT SUPPORTING CEASEFIRE, NEGOTIATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR OAU PRINCIPLES.

4. MISSION ALSO WISHES TO NOTE THAT DESPITE OUR POLICY OF NOT PROVIDING ARMS TO EITHER ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA, WE HAVE HEARD AFRICAN CLAIMS OF "PROXY WAR" FROM GA PODIUM. CLAIMS MAY BE BASED ON IGNORANCE, FEAR OF GREAT POWER INVOLVEMENT, OR REFLECT VIEW OF SOME AFRICANS THAT US SOMEHOW GAVE "GREEN LIGHT" TO SOMALIS AND PROVIDING SOMALIA INDIRECT SUPPORT THROUGH MODERATE ARABS.

5. COMMENT: AFRICAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS GENERALLY COINCIDE WITH OUR PRIVATE SOUNDINGS WITH SENIOR AFRICAN OFFICIALS. YOUNG

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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